

a rich bright chestnut-colour. Belly hairs slate-coloured, with pure white tips. Feet pure white. Tail thickly haired, though not pencilled, sharply bicolor, dark brown above, and pure white on the sides and below. Ears thickly covered with shining yellowish grey hairs. An inconspicuous white spot both above and below the base of each ear.

Ears large and rounded; laid forward they just cover the eyes; no projection on the anterior margin. Feet slender; the fourth toe the longest, fifth barely reaching to the end of the first phalanx of the fourth; soles naked; foot-pads smaller and more prominent than in *R. chinchilloides*. Mammæ 8—two pectoral and two inguinal pairs. Interdental palate-ridges 5; smooth posterior palate commencing between the second and third molars.

Skull (Plate XLIV. figs. 20 & 21) with the essential characters of that of *R. chinchilloides*, but the frontal outline less arched, the nasals shorter and narrower, and the interparietal narrower from before backwards. Upper edge of orbit not beaded. Anterior palatine foramen reaching to opposite the second projection of  $m^1$ .

The nearest ally of this species is of course *R. chinchilloides*, Waterh., from which it may be distinguished by its larger ears, slenderer feet, and wholly different coloration, while of the true *Hesperomyes*, *H. xanthopygus*, Waterh., agrees most nearly in colour and proportions with it, but may be readily distinguished by its plainer colour, narrow convex teeth, and much longer tail.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

##### PLATE XLII.

- Fig. 1. *Hesperomys laticeps*, var. *nitidus*, p. 452.  
2. *H. bimaculatus*, var. *lepidus*, p. 454.

##### PLATE XLIII.

- Fig. 1. *H. scalops*, p. 455.  
2. *Rheithrodon pictus*, p. 457.

##### PLATE XLIV.

- Fig. 1. Palate of *Hesperomys scalops*.  
2-5. Skull and hind-foot of *H. cinereus*.  
6. Palate of *H. latimanus*, p. 452.  
7-9. Palate, skull, and hind foot of *H. leucodactylus*, p. 452.  
10-13. Skull, hind foot, and ear of *H. bimaculatus*, var. *lepidus*, p. 454.  
14. Ear of *H. bimaculatus*, typ. var., p. 454.  
15-16. Skull of *H. scalops*, p. 455.  
17-18. Skull of *H. spinosus*, p. 453.  
19-21. Hind foot and skull of *Rheithrodon pictus*, p. 457.

11. On the Rhynchota collected by the late Mr. W. A. Forbes on the Lower Niger. By W. L. DISTANT.

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The small Rhynchotal portion of the Entomological collection made by the late Mr. W. A. Forbes on the Lower Niger having been placed in my hands for identification, with a request that I

would give the results to this Society, I now do myself the honour to present the same.

The collection consists of examples of twelve species, eleven of which belong to the Heteroptera and one to the Homoptera. Of the first, two species appear to be undescribed, and for the reception of one I have been compelled to propose a new genus. With these two exceptions all are well-known species described by old authors, no less than five having been described by Fabricius; whilst the names of Linnæus, Thunberg, and Klug attached to remaining species sufficiently testify that we are dealing with insects of well-known and abundant character.

The peculiarities of their geographical distribution I have appended to the identifications of the species.

## HETEROPTERA.

### Fam. PENTATOMIDÆ.

1. *STEGANOCERUS MULTIPUNCTATUS*, Thunb., var. C, Stål, Hem. Afr. i. p. 51 (1864).

This appears to be the only variety of this protean species found in West Africa, and is the first example I have myself seen from that subregion, though Dr. Stål recorded it (on the authority of specimens so labelled in Dr. Signoret's collection) as from Calabar. It is not, however, confined to West Africa, but, like the other varieties of the species, is widely distributed. In my own collection are specimens collected in various parts of Southern Africa, and also from the Nyassa and Mombas districts in the east.

2. *SPHEROCORIS OCELLATUS*, Klug.

This, again, is the first example of the species I have received from West Africa, though it is found in Caffraria (Stål), is not uncommon in Eastern Africa (my own habitats being Nyassa and Mywapwa), and is also recorded from Abyssinia.

3. *CIMEX (AFRIUS) PURPUREUS*, Westw.

Var. *marginella*, Dall. List Hem. i. p. 89, n. 3 (1851).

This variety was first described by Mr. Dallas from Sierra Leone. The specimen collected by Mr. Forbes is the only other example I have received from West Africa, to which the species seems confined, though it apparently does not reach the southern and eastern limit of Calabar.

4. *SEPHELA LINEARIS*, A. & S.

A West-African species, described originally from Senegal, but which I have also received from the Cameroon district.

### AGABOTUS, gen. nov.

Body oval, somewhat depressed. Head with the lateral margins amplified, laminate and somewhat curved upwards, the lateral lobes longer than the central lobe, meeting beyond it, their apices rounded, but sinuately cleft; ocelli situate some distance from and

behind the eyes. Rostrum reaching the intermediate coxæ; basal joint not quite so long as the head, second and third joints subequal in length. Antennæ hirsute, with the basal joint stoutest and about reaching the apex of head; second joint slightly shorter than the third. Pronotum with the lateral margins slightly amplified, laminate and recurved, the anterior angles obscurely spined, the posterior angles somewhat rounded; the disk from about centre to base of head obliquely depressed, the anterior margin concavely excavated to receive head. Scutellum somewhat elongate, narrowed before apex, which is obtusely rounded and extends a little beyond inner angle of corium. Corium not covering abdominal margin except at base. Membrane not quite reaching abdominal apex in the female, in the male reaching the abdominal extremity; the veins simple and longitudinal. Mesosternum with a slight central carination. Legs moderately long and pilose; femora unarmed; tibiæ sulcated above.

This genus appears to find its systematic position between *Caystrus*, Stål, and *Anarropa*, Gerst., both of which are also Tropical-African genera.

5. *AGABOTUS BRUNNESCENS*, n. sp.

Ochraceous, thickly covered with dark-brown punctures. Eyes black, their basal margins ochraceous; ocelli pale castaneous. Antennæ pale ochraceous, prominently hirsute; second joint slightly shorter than the third, fourth and fifth subequal in length, base of the fifth sometimes much paler in hue. Corium with the veins pale ochraceous, and the costal area much less punctate. Membrane pale fuscous, with a pitchy spot at each side of base. Connexivum ochraceous, thickly covered with dark and very fine punctures, the outer margin impunctate, with a small black spot at each sutural apex. Head beneath and sternum ochraceous, thickly covered with dark punctures; disks of meso- and metasternums pitchy. Abdomen pitchy-brown or black, thickly and finely punctate, the disk sometimes paler and the lateral margins broadly ochraceous, with a small black spot at each sutural apex. Rostrum ochraceous, with its apex pitchy.

Long. 12 to 13 millim.

6. *ÆTHEMENES FORBESI*, n. sp.

Body above bright grassy-green; eyes, apex of third and the whole of fourth and fifth joints of antennæ blackish; central lobe of head and base of pronotum rather darker greenish; membrane pale hyaline. Body beneath green; disk of the abdomen ochraceous. Rostrum green, with its extreme apex fuscous.

Antennæ with the second joint longer than the third, fourth subequal to, or very slightly longer than, the fifth; head thickly and finely punctate; pronotum somewhat coarsely punctate and subrugulose on basal half; scutellum and corium thickly and somewhat finely punctate.

Long. 9 millim.

This species is apparently most closely allied to *Æ. nigro-punctatus*, Sign.

## Subfam. DINIDORINÆ.

7. *ASPONGOPUS VIDUATUS*, Fabr.

A species found alike in West, South, and East Africa; Stål also records it from Nubia, and gives the further habitats of "Syria, Turcia."

## Subfam. PHYLLOCEPHALINÆ.

8. *DALSIRA MODESTA*, Fabr.

This species has hitherto been recorded from the Congo, Gaboon, and Senegal. A closely allied and scarcely separable species?, *D. affinis*, A. & S., is found in South Africa.

## Fam. COREIDÆ.

## Subfam. COREINÆ.

9. *ANOPLOCNEMIS CURVIPES*, Fabr.

It is probable that this common species is found throughout the length and breadth of the Ethiopian region.

## Fam. PYRRHOCORIDÆ.

## Subfam. PYRRHOCORINÆ.

10. *DYSDERCUS SUPERSTITIOSUS*, Fabr.

A common tropical African species, and abundant both on the East and West coasts.

## Fam. REDUVIIDÆ.

## Subfam. ACANTHASPIDINÆ.

11. *PLATYMERIS BIGUTTATA*, Linn.

Previously recorded from Senegal and Sierra Leone.

## HOMOPTERA.

## Fam. CERCOPIDÆ.

## Subfam. CERCOPINÆ.

12. *LOCRI RUBRA*, Fabr.

This species has hitherto being only recorded as from Senegal.